Promotion of use of CNG

*286. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government encourage the use of CNG as an environment-friendly fuel in passenger and commercial vehicles;

(b) if so, whether Government are planning any steps to promote its usage by facilitating supply and distribution of CNG in major cities of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government is encouraging the use of CNG as an environment-friendly fuel in cities with high levels of pollution. At present there are 228 CNG stations in operation in the country, as per the details given in the statement-I. (*See below*). Further, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), in the adjoining areas of Delhi, namely, NOIDA, Faridabad and Gurgaon and Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) in the adjoining areas of Mumbai, namely, Mira-Bhayander, Thane city, Vashi, New Bomaby, Kalyan-Dombiwali etc., are proposing to expand their CNG network. CNG, as an auto fuel, will be introduced in a phased manner in different polluted cities of the country, subject to availability of natural gas and gas transmission infrastructure.

In order to cover more areas under the CNG network, GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) have formed Joint Ventures for implementing city gas distribution projects with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for Andhra Pradesh, and with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for Kanpur and Pune. In addition, GAIL has signed an MoU with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the formation of a Joint Venture to implement City Gas Projects in Agra, Lucknow and Bareilly.

Statement-I

State-wise number of CNG stations in operation in the country

Sl. No.	Name of the City	No. of CNG Stations
1.	Mumbai, Maharashtra	93
2.	Delhi	125
3.	Vadodara, Gujarat	2
4.	Surat, Gujarat	6
5.	Ankleshwar, Gujarat	1
6.	Bharuch, Gujarat	1
	TOTAL :	228

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has said that the Government is encouraging the use of CNG as an environment-friendly fuel. But, so far, only 228 CNG stations are operating in the country. Sir, it seeks that the progress is very slow. In August 2003, the Supreme Court had directed the Government that the CNG stations should be introduced in eleven cities, namely, Kolkata, Surat, Chennai, Lucknow, Bangalore, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Agra, Ahmedabad, Pune and Sholapur. And, if you look at the answer, except Mumabi and Delhi, Vadodara has got only two, Surat has got six, Ankleshwar (Gujarat) has got one and Bharuch has got one. Others have not got any. Sir, I want to know from the Minister as to why this progress is so slow. And, what is the current level of CNG supply in the country.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I have to register my protest against the selective quotation from my answer. The hon. Member has quoted from the first sentence but he has not booked at the last sentence of the first paragraph, 'we will do this subject to availability of natural gas and the gas transmission infrastructure'.

Sir, we are working on providing the natural gas, as also setting up the gas transmission infrastructure, in consequence of which, in compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court, we have increased the allocation of IGL, and, we are now working on 18 cities. In two of these, Delhi and

Mumbai, it already exists. In Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra and Faridabad, the projects are under implementation. In Surat, we already have an existing project of GGCL. The problem with regard to Patna, Varansai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore is that there is no gas availability. In Jodhpur and Jharia, we are facing the problems of dust, and, in Sholapur, there is no gas availability. Therefore, on all 18 projects we are doing our best to promote this as quickly as possible, and, as for the Supreme Court directives, which are not one but several, dated 5th of April, 2002, 19th of August, 2003, we are assiduously implementing them.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, 'subject to the availability of gas' is also the Minister's problem. That cannot be an answer.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: On the other hand, we have to look to *Allah* to give us the gas, and, we are looking for that.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, my second supplementary is that there was also proposal from some automobile companies to develop CNG car models. What is the progress in that direction? Are some automobile companies coming forward to develop the CNG car models?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes, Sir. We have given approval for CNG kits for MPFI engines and the kits are likely to be launched by manufacturers like Minda.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Sir, the hon. Minister has sought *Allah's* help in helping him to solve the problems. I wish to know from the hon. Minister: Will he approach *Allah* to solve the problem of LPG availability, which in the last six months is in short supply, which is available in black? In fact, Sir, in the five years of the NDA rule, you could get LPG on a phone call, you could get LPG...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सर, एलपीजी का क्या कह रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... यह क्या हो रहा है?

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Now, in the last six months, there is acute shortage of LPG, and, if you ask a housewife ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I do not understand why you are allowing this question...(*Interruptions*)... क्या सीएनजी के साथ एलपीजी आ जाएगा? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: If you ask a housewife ...(*Interruptions*)... she has to shell out not only excess price of Rs. 20 per cylinder ...(*Interruption*)... Will he seek *Allah's* help on this matter?

श्री रूद्रनारायण पणि: यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है।

श्री कृपाल परमार: एलपीजी के ब्लैक की बात हो रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down ...(*Interruptions*)... Let him speak ...(*Interruptions*)... He will speak on the matter ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, notwithstanding the fact that the supplementary question has absolutely no relationship with the main question, my secular answer to the hon. Member is that where it is in the hands of *Allah,* we turn to *Allah,* where it is in the hands of man, we turn to *man.*

In the case of LPG, the problem is that when the previous Government was in office, they took no steps whatsoever to deal with the escalating prices of steel, and, they had not provided for an escalation clause in the contracts signed with the gas cylinder suppliers.

We have rectified both these defects, and, we have ample supplies of gas cylinders, and, I assure the hon. Members that we will be wiping out the waiting list by the 31st of December, 2004.

Uniform policy for account numbers

*287. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has impressed upon banks the importance of adopting a uniform policy for account numbers as otherwise implementation of Straight Through Processing (STP) of customer transactions under the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGSS) could face problems; and

(b) if so, the advantages of having uniform policy for account numbers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The advantages of having a uniform policy for account numbers are: less human intervention, more security in funds transfer, efficient and faster